

# THE KING SPEAKS

*a Study in the Sermon On The Mount* | Discussion Guide

Week 6 – October 21

Integrity | Matthew 5:33-37

## Introduction

In this passage Jesus talks about keeping our word and as a result living with integrity. For many in the audience swearing oaths had become not a way to affirm the truthfulness of a statement but rather a way for people to put up a front they weren't willing to back by their actions.

Perhaps one of the greatest ways to comprise integrity is to say one thing and do something completely different. This was happening in Jesus' day and it's prevalent in our day as well.

As Jesus addresses this issue He again raises the bar and we find our righteousness only attained in Jesus Christ.

**Read and study Matthew 5:33-37 before beginning this week's study.**

## Questions for Study

1. What qualities would you use to describe a person of great character?
2. Reflect on how long it takes to build integrity and how quickly it can be diminished? Are there examples in your life or others where you've seen this? When do you find it most challenging to be a person of integrity?
3. How are the words a person speaks tied to their integrity?
4. Jesus refers to the ancient practice of confirming the truthfulness of a statement or promise by "swearing" to God that it is true (see Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Ex. 20:7).
5. Notice this is a practice that God Himself did to confirm His promise to Abraham (Gen. 22:16-17, Heb. 6:13-18), David swore to Jonathan and to God (1 Sam. 20:10, Ps. 132:2), and Paul swore to the Romans (Rom. 1:9, 9:1).
6. How were the Pharisees and the Scribes being hypocritical in the way in which they were making oaths? (See also Matthew 23:16-22)
7. Are you a person that when you say "yes" or "no" people take your words as truth or do they wonder if you'll follow through? How can you improve on this?
8. When are you most tempted to lie? What would happen in the long run if you chose to be truthful at these points? How would it impact your relationship and your witness?
9. Spend some time praying for each other that by God's grace we'd be a people with upstanding integrity and character so that God's name would be glorified through us.